

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to the Examiner for her courtesy and assistance provided to the Applicant's undersigned representative during the personal interview held on July 10, 2007.

The claims have been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to be directed to a chewing gum according to claim 19. Such amendment is deemed to distinguish over all of the tablet prior art. This amendment is thus deemed to overcome all grounds of rejection except the 102 rejection based upon Johnson et al. (US 6,627,234).

Claim 1 has further been amended to include the limitation of claim 9. The rejection based upon Johnson is thus deemed to be overcome.

New claims 23-34 are added. New claim 23 corresponds to the combination of claims 1 and 20 and 9. New claims 24-33 correspond to claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10-14, respectively. New claims 35 and 37 are supported by claims 12 and 32. New claims 36 and 38 are supported by page 10, line 15 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is solicited.

Request for Acknowledgement of Foreign Priority

In item 12 of the Office Action on page 1, the Examiner has failed to acknowledge the claim of priority and has failed to acknowledge receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents from the International Bureau. Acknowledgment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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